

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants respectfully request that the enclosed sheet of drawings, "Substitute Sheet 7/9", containing formal FIGS. 13-15, be substituted for the corresponding drawing, Sheet 7/9, originally filed with the application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the Application. Claims 22-26 are allowed. Claims 8, 9, 16, 18, 20, and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-7 are cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 8-26 are therefore presented for examination.

Claims 8 and 22 are independent.

Applicants initially thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claim 22-26.

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, Claim 18 recites "a second direction of rotation." Claim 18 has been amended to overcome the rejection under §112 by being amended to depend from Claim 17, which recites "a first direction of rotation." Proper antecedent basis is therefore provided for Claim 18. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

On page 4 of the Office Action, Claims 8, 11, 14, 17, 18, and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8, 9, 16, 20 and 21 have been so rewritten, placing Claims 8-21 in condition for allowance, in addition to the allowed Claims 22-26.

Specifically, Claim 8 has been amended to place it in condition for allowance, having all of the limitations of its former base Claim 1 and intervening Claims 3, 5, 6, and 7. Claim 8 is therefore believed allowable.

Further, Claim 9 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 8. Claims 16, 20 and 21 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 8. All other claims from Claim 9 through Claim 21 depend either directly or indirectly, from independent amended Claim 8. These claims recite additional limitations, which, in conformity with the features of the independent Claim 8, are not disclosed or suggested by the art of record. The dependent Claims 9-21 are therefore believed allowable.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-13, 15, 16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,290,696 to Lafontaine. The amendments to Claims 8, 16 and 20, as discussed above, have rendered the rejections of Claims 9, 10, 12-13, 15, 16, and 20 as moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection with regard to such claims be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, the claim objections are believed to have been overcome placing Claims 8-26 in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made corrections to drawing FIG. 15, shown in red on the enclosed marked-up copy of drawing Sheet 7/9, containing FIGS. 13-15, as originally filed with the application, in order to correct inconsistencies between the drawings and the specification. Applicants additionally enclose herewith a formal version of "Substitute Sheet 7/9" of the drawings, containing Figs. 13-15, for those presently on file.

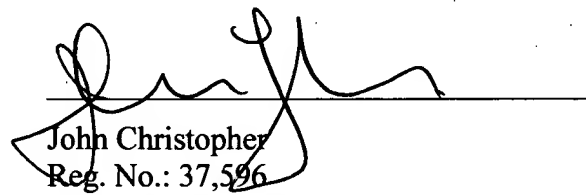
No new matter has been introduced into the application. The correction to FIG. 15 follows the specification's description of vacuum pressure applied to the space 910 between the inner balloon 860 and the outer balloon 865. "Once vacuum pressure is applied into the space 910, the balloon configuration is that shown in Figure 15. Under such conditions, the space 910 *is effectively of zero dimension along the lateral faces L of both balloons*, such that the inner balloon 860 and the outer balloon 865 are in contact with one another along length L." (Specification, paragraph 85, emphasis added) Thus, the corrected form of FIG. 15 shows the space 910 to be minimized along the length L as shown, thereby rendering the drawing in accordance with the specification.

Applicants respectfully request that the enclosed sheet of drawings, "Substitute Sheet 7/9", containing formal FIGS. 13-15, be substituted for the corresponding drawing, Sheet 7/9, originally filed with the application. A corresponding Letter to Official Draftsperson is submitted of even date herewith requesting same.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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